

Appln No. 10/627,567

Amdt date June 29, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 31, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 8, 11, 16, 17, and 19 are amended.

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities. The Specification is amended to correct typographical and clerical errors. In view of the amendment to the specification, it is respectfully requested that the above-mentioned objections be withdrawn.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the claimed subject matter " θ_1 greater than the angle θ_2 ," recited in claims 11-19, is not described in the specification. Claim 11 is amended to change "greater" to "smaller," as a result of a clerical error. In view of the amendment to claim 11, it is respectfully requested that the above-mentioned objection be withdrawn.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a), because " θ_1 greater than the angle θ_2 ," recited in claims 11-19 must be shown or canceled from the claim(s). In view of the amendment to claim 11, it is respectfully requested that the above-mentioned objection be withdrawn.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In view of the amendment to claim 11,

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it is respectfully requested that the above-mentioned rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 7-8 and 16-17 would be allowed if re-written in independent form. Claims 7-8 and 16-17 are re-written in independent form including all of the limitation of their respective base claims. Therefore, allowance of the above claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hasegawa (JP 11-219664). In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The amended independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "the fixed section and the center section are separated by a bend at a first folding trace, and the center section and the locking section are separated by a bend at a second folding trace," and "the spring is only bent between the locking section and the fixed section at the first folding trace and the second folding trace." Hasegawa does not disclose the above limitations.

First, Hasegawa does not disclose "the center section and the locking section are separated by a bend at a second folding trace." Rather, the locking part 22 and the intermediate part 23 of Hasegawa are separated by a fourth portion that is formed

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between two folding traces 24 and 24a. (See, FIGs. 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8).

Second, Hasegawa does not disclose "the spring is only bent between the locking section and the fixed section at the first folding trace and the second folding trace." Rather, the supporting member of Hasegawa is bent at three folding places; one between the welding part 21 and the intermediate part 23, one between the intermediate part 23 and a fourth portion, and one between the fourth portion and the locking part 22. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Hasegawa.

Amended independent claim 11 includes, among other limitations, "the center section is planar and a first fold connects the center section to the fix section and a second fold connects the center section to the locking section." As discussed above, the portion that connects the locking part 22 to the intermediate part 23 and the intermediate part 23 to the welding part 21 of Hasegawa is formed by two portions that are connected together by a fold 24. Furthermore, these two portions, even if construed as a single portion, are NOT planar, as required by amended claim 11. As a result, claim 11 is not anticipated by Hasegawa either.

In short, independent claims 1 and 11 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 2-10 and 12-19 are all dependent from independent claims 1 and 11, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their respective independent claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the

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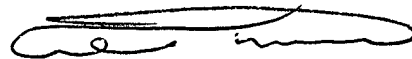
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cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claims 1 and 11, and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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RRT/clv

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